



from the desk of
REPRESENTATIVE BILL RUPPEL

Dear Neighbor:

With little money and declining state revenues, there were some very tough and difficult decisions to be made this session.

There were four goals I was determined to reach while voting on bills this session: create and protect Hoosiers' jobs, not create new tax increases, live within our means and allow Hoosiers to vote for permanent property tax caps on the November ballot.

I am pleased to say I was able to reach those goals while providing the best services possible for Hoosiers.

I'll be back and forth between my home and the Statehouse during the interim while working on local and state issues. During this time I will continue working with the people who have concerns with state government.

It's my honor to represent you and I will continue to do my best to protect our local community and help pass legislation that not only strengthens our district but also the great state of Indiana.

Sincerely,

William J. "Bill" Ruppel
Rep. Bill Ruppel



200 W. WASHINGTON STREET • INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

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200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

2010

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

BILL RUPPEL



BILL RUPPEL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • HOUSE DISTRICT 22

CREATING HOOSIER JOBS



I voted for legislation that authorized the use of public-private partnerships for the construction of the Illiana Expressway in Northwest Indiana and the Ohio River Bridges project in Southern Indiana. These two projects have the potential to create more than 10,000 jobs. Other job friendly legislation I voted for was the New Employer Tax Credit which allows new businesses that locate in Indiana starting January 1, 2010 to receive a tax credit for two years equal to 10% of the wages paid for each newly created job. I will continue to support initiatives that make Indiana an attractive environment for job growth.



HELPING HOOSIER FARMERS

I voted to save Hoosier farmers nearly \$20 million on their property tax bills in 2011 by improving the system for assessing farm land. Farm land assessments will now be based on an adjusted six-year average that eliminates the highest value over the six-year period.



SUPPORTING HOOSIER VETERANS

I voted to protect veterans from debt collectors who try to collect from service members' disability benefits. I also supported legislation to ensure all Indiana National Guard members returning from active duty service receive face-to-face care from a professional mental health provider if they need it to help with the stress of combat.

CONTROLLING SPENDING



Another focus I had this session was to make certain that there would be no new tax increases. Unlike Washington, D.C., I believe the State of Indiana is making prudent fiscal decisions. In my opinion, it is simply not an option to raise Hoosier taxes due to our state government's budget shortcomings. We first must live within our means.

Increasing taxes should never be our first resort, but rather our last. I was thrilled that there were no new taxes passed this session.

"In my opinion... we first must live within our means."



BOOSTING SMALL BUSINESSES

I voted to delay a \$350 million tax increase

on nearly 80,000 Hoosier employers, more than 72,000 of which were small businesses with less than 50 employees. This tax increase was passed last year without my support. I also voted to remove the employee threshold on the EDGE tax credit for job retention. Previously the threshold required an employer to have at least 35 employees in order to be eligible for the tax credit. Now small businesses will also be eligible for this incentive.



PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

I voted for legislation that I believe will help Hoosiers to protect themselves on the commute to and from work. Starting July 1, most employers will be prohibited from having policies that prevent their employees from keeping a legally owned firearm locked in their vehicle while they are at work. Governmental units will also be prohibited from denying a licensed gun owner their 2nd Amendment right during a time of a declared emergency. Additionally, I voted to keep certain personal information about Hoosiers with licenses to carry a handgun confidential.